

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 AGR-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-10

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SP-03 STR-08 TRSE-00 SWF-02

CIEP-02 OMB-01 XMB-07 DRC-01 /089 W

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P R 161655Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHC PRIORITY 7041

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, CS

SUBJECT: BANANA MEETING

1. THE FIRST, SESSION OF THE SAN JOSE BANANA PRODUCERS MEETING GOT UNDERWAY AT 9:05 P.M. LAST NIGHT WITH COLOMBIA, PANAMA, NICARAGUA AND HONDURAS ALL SENDING MINISTERIAL LEVEL DELEGATIONS. NEITHER ECUADOR NOR GUATEMALA, HOWEVER, WERE REPRESENTED. IN ADDITION TO THE OFFICAL DELEGATIONS, THE CACM SECRETARIAT, SIECA, AND FAO WERE REPRESENTED.

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS THE FIRST SUBSTANTIVE MEETING BEGINS TODAY WITH THE FOLLOWING AGENDA:

A. INTERCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON THE APPLICATION OF THE AGREEMENT OF PANAMA (I.E. THE EXPORT TAX).

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B. PROPOSAL FOR CREATION OF THE UNION OF BANANA EXPORT COUNTRIES (UPEB).

C. COORDINATION OF PARTICIPATION IN THE FORTHCOMING FAO MEETING IN ROME.

D. MISCELLANEOUS.

3. ACCORDING TO LA REPUBLICA, IN HIS OPENING ADDRESS MINISTER OF ECONOMY, INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE SANCHEZ REFERRED TO INTERFERENCE WITH WHAT THE BANANA PRODUCERS WERE TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH IN THE FOLLOWING TERMS: "SOME GROUPS INTERESTED IN (OUR GOVERNMENTS') ACTION::: HAVE TRIED TO UNDO THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS WE HAVE MADE". THE COLOMBIAN REPRESENTATIVE REPORTEDLY REPLIED "INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE NO LONGER SHOULD BE REGULATED BY THE (PRINCIPLES OF) SUPPLY AND DEMAND, BUT BY EQUITY AND JUSTICE".

4. COMMENT: IN AN HOUR LONG SESSION ON THE EVENING OF MAY 14 WITH EX-MINISTER CLAUDIO ALPIZAR, ONE OF THE COSTA RICAN DELEGATES, AND EMBASSY OFFICER DISCUSSED THE U.S. POSITION ON THE BANANA TAX IN SOME DETAIL. WHILE SEEMINGLY UNDERSTANDING THE UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES OF THE J.S. POSITION, ALPIZAR APPEARED DEEPLY DISTURBED BY WHAT HE THOUGHT WAS A FUNDAMENTA
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MISUNDERSTANDING BY THE UNITED STATES OF THE POSITION IN WHICH THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FIND THEMSELVES IN THE PRESENT WORLD CHARACTERIZED BY AN ENTIRELY NEW DIMENSION TO BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PROBLEMS. ALPIZAR ALSO EXPRESSED HIS DISMAY THAT UNTIED BRANDS HAD NOT YET SEEN FIT TO RESPOND TO THE GOCR'S REQUEST THAT IT SEND A DELEGATION TO REOPEN NEGOTIATIONS FOR AMENDMENT OF UNITED'S CONTRACT.

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